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09/200,179 11/25/98 VIEGENER

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EXAMINER

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3627
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This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

☐ This application has been examined ☒ Responsive to communication filed on 1-5-01 ☒ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), 0 days from the date of this letter.
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
3. ☐ Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.
4. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152.
5. ☐ Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474.
6. ☐

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. ☒ Claims 1-9, 11, 13-21 are pending in the application.

Of the above, claims 12-17 are withdrawn from consideration.

2. ☒ Claims 10, 12 have been cancelled.

3. ☐ Claims are allowed.

4. ☒ Claims 1-9, 11 and 18-21 are rejected.

5. ☐ Claims are objected to.

6. ☐ Claims are subject to restriction or election requirement.

7. ☐ This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.

8. ☐ Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.

9. ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are ☐ acceptable; ☐ not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).

10. ☐ The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____, has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner; ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).

11. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed _____, has been ☐ approved; ☐ disapproved (see explanation).

12. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☐ been received ☐ not been received
☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. _____; filed on _____.

13. ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

14. ☐ Other

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EXAMINER'S ACTION

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

8. Claims 1-9, 11, and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,850,096 to Gotoh et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,018,462 to Saka.

Gotoh et al. discloses a press fit arrangement between a metal pipe (2) and a socket (1). A sealing ring (7) and holding element (8) are received in an interior space of the socket. However, Gotoh et al. fails to teach an anchoring groove for accommodating the sealing ring and the holding element having a plurality of cutting projections for penetrating the metal pipe. Saka discloses a press fit arrangement comprising a socket (2) comprising an anchoring groove (9) for accommodating a packing (8). A holding element (6) penetrating the pipe (1) is also provided. The holding element is positioned within an annular receiving groove. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the socket of Gotoh et al. with an anchoring groove and a receiving groove to accommodate the sealing ring and holding element, respectively, so as to prevent shifting of the sealing ring and anchoring element during press fitting and to also modify the holding element so that it penetrates the pipe to further ensure that the pipe and socket do not slip apart.

As concerns claim 5, Saka discloses an embodiment in which the receiving groove has a conical base and the holding element having a cross sectional contour which complements the conical base.

In reference to claim 9, Saka also teaches the use of a circumferential groove (5) formed on the outer periphery of the socket for the receipt of a press ring. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the

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outer periphery of the socket of Gotoh et al. with a circumferential groove for receipt of a press ring so as to provide an alternate means of press of joining the socket to the pipe.

As concerns claim 21, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to provide the sealing ring with a relatively small cross section since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. In re Rose, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9, 11 and 18-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Teri Pham Luu** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-7421**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **BethAnne Dayoan**, can be reached at **(703) 308-3865**.

Submission of your response by facsimile transmission is encouraged. Group 3620's **facsimile** number is **(703) 305-3597**. Recognizing the fact that reducing cycle time in the processing and examination of patent applications will effectively increase a patent's term, it is to your benefit to submit responses by facsimile transmission whenever permissible. Such submission will place the response directly in our examining group's hands and will eliminate Post Office processing and delivery time as well as the PTO's mail room processing and delivery time. For a complete list of correspondence not permitted by facsimile transmission, see MPEP § 502.01. In general, most responses and/or amendments not requiring a fee, as well as those requiring a fee but charging such fee to a deposit account, can be submitted by facsimile transmission. Responses requiring a fee which applicant is paying by check should not be submitted by facsimile transmission separately from the check.

Responses submitted by facsimile transmission should include a Certificate of Transmission (MPEP § 512). The following is an example of the format the certification might take:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 305-3597) on _____ (Date)

(Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate)

(Signature)

If your response is submitted by facsimile transmission, you are hereby reminded that the original should be retained as evidence of authenticity (37 CFR 1.4 and MPEP § 502.02). Please do not separately mail the original or another copy unless required by the Patent and Trademark Office. Submission of the original response or a follow-up copy of the response after your response has been transmitted by facsimile will only cause further unnecessary delays in the processing of your application; duplicate responses where fees are charged to a deposit account may result in those fees being charged twice.


Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be directed to steven.meyers@uspto.gov.

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All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed expressed waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist at (703) 308-2168.

tpl
March 13, 2001



TERI PHAM LUU
PRIMARY EXAMINER